United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.1

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
5 December 2012

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 21 September 2012 at 11.30 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Election of the Bureau

Statement by the Chair

Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Election of the Bureau

1. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the Group of African States had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania) to serve as Vice-Chair.

2. *Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania) was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.*

Statement by the Chair

3. **The Chair** informed the Committee how responsibility for the various agenda items would be divided among the members of the Bureau.

4. Meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If there were few or no speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, the time and conference services should be utilized either for negotiations or for meetings of interest groups. In view of the limited time available, it was important for the Committee to maximize the use of its time.

5. The list of speakers for both the Committee's general debate and the agenda items allocated to it would open on Monday, 24 September. Delegations were requested to inscribe their names on the list as soon as possible to enable the Committee to plan its work more efficiently. If a delegation was not in the room when its turn came, it would automatically be moved to the end of the list, unless it had made arrangements to change places with another delegation.

6. Recalling that the General Assembly had decided to maintain the current time limits of 7 minutes for individual Member States and 10 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States during the general debate (5 minutes and 7 minutes respectively during debates on individual agenda items), he urged speakers to confine themselves to the salient points of their statements and to provide copies of longer statements for distribution. Introductions by Secretariat officials should be limited to 10 minutes and representatives of all agencies, funds and programmes should focus on selected issues of concern to them and provide copies of their statements for distribution.

Organization of work

7. **The Chair** invited the Committee to consider the draft programme of work as contained in document A/C.2/67/L.1 and he recalled some of the important changes in working methods adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 65/530. As draft resolutions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout the session, delegations should do their utmost to facilitate the adoption of draft proposals by the recommended deadlines. The Bureau would keep multiple mandatory deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions; no late submissions would be accepted. However, requests for extensions made prior to the expiration of the deadline would be considered on a case-by-case basis. As noted in the guidelines for the submission of draft resolutions, the Secretariat required 48 hours to process and issue documents in all languages before the scheduled consideration of those draft proposals. Unless such modalities were respected, the Committee ran the risk of returning to its much-criticized past practice.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly decision 65/530, draft resolutions should be more concise and action-oriented. As informal "informal" consultations would be held early in the session, the appointment of facilitators must be completed promptly and he urged delegations to submit draft resolutions well in advance of the deadlines.

9. Time had been set aside for six special events, one of which had been specifically requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/189. The Bureau proposed that those events should focus on the following: lessons learned from debt crises and the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms; science, technology and innovation: a new development paradigm; the challenges of countries under special situations and the special challenges of middle-income countries; follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on sustainable development goals; entrepreneurship for development; and, lastly, migration and development: causes and impacts. Interpretation services for the special events would be provided on an "as available" basis.

10. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 30 November. It was essential that the Committee complete its work by that date as the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was scheduled to open on

26 November and that would affect the availability of Committee members.

11. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that the General Assembly had decided to rename sub-item (a) of agenda item 20 thus: "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development". Document A/C.2/67/L.1 should be amended accordingly.

12. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft programme of work contained in document A/C.2/67/L.1, as orally revised.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chair** drew attention to document A/C.2/67/L.1/Add.1, which provided information on the status of documentation as at 10 September 2012. In light of the comments made by some members in 2011 regarding the need to abide by General Assembly decision 65/530 on improving the working methods of the Committee, the Bureau intended to arrange for the Committee to devote some time to the issue.

15. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, as in previous years, the Committee would have at its disposal "QuickPlace", a secure online shared workspace. Detailed instructions on the use of the tool along with a registration form were being circulated.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.